

FACT SHEET:

Bush Budget Undermines Clean Air, Clean Water, Open Spaces

Even as middle class Americans are struggling to achieve financial security, the Bush budget ignores the very real challenges they are facing. It fails to create jobs, and instead creates record deficits. It shortchanges education, health care, veterans' benefits, small business, and the environment. Instead of helping working families, it provides additional tax breaks for those who need them least, and provides billions of dollars in new giveaways to HMOs and other wealthy corporate interests.

Cuts overall funding for EPA by 7 percent. The Bush budget proposes cutting funding for the EPA by \$606 million or 7.2% below this year's enacted level. The Bush budget will result in about 5,000 fewer inspections than conducted in Fiscal 2000 to detect violations of the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act and other key environmental laws.

Assumes drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. For the fourth year in a row, the Bush budget assumes opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas exploration – something which the Congress has repeatedly rejected. The Bush budget assumes \$1.3 billion in ANWR lease bonuses for the Federal Treasury over the next five years.

Abandons the principle of “polluter pays” for Superfund toxic waste site cleanups. One in four people in America lives within four miles of a major toxic waste site on the “Superfund” list, but the number of Superfund cleanups has dropped by almost 50 percent since the beginning of the Bush Administration. The Bush budget is proposing only \$1.38 billion for Superfund cleanups in 2005, which will continue the slow pace and continue to shift the cost of these cleanups on to the taxpayers.

Slashes Clean Water funds by 37 percent and freezes funding for safe drinking water. The Bush budget slashes funding for the states' Clean Water revolving loan funds, which help improve wastewater treatment facilities, by \$492 million – a 37 percent cut. This cut comes despite the fact that 45 percent of the nation's lakes and 40 percent of the nation's streams remain too polluted for fishing or swimming. The Bush budget also essentially freezes funding for states' Safe Drinking Water revolving loan funds at this year's enacted level – calling for \$850 million for Fiscal 2005.

Underfunds Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) programs by \$586 million. The Bush budget claims to fully fund LWCF programs, but it is using the LWCF to pay for unrelated programs. In fact, the Bush budget provides funding for the only two programs that are actually authorized by the Land and Water Conservation Fund – Federal Land Acquisition and State Conservation Grants – at a total funding level of only \$314 million, \$586 million less than their authorized level.

Shortchanges National Parks. The Bush budget requests \$2.36 billion for the National Park Service – only a 1.3 percent increase over this year's enacted level. This fails to meet critical needs faced by our parks and will limit the ability of the Park Service to reduce the backlog of park maintenance projects.

Shortchanges clean, renewable energy & energy efficiency programs. Despite the need for significant increases, the budget flat-funds renewable energy programs. This includes a 16% cut in biomass research and a 4 percent cut in solar energy research. Similarly, the budget flat-funds energy efficiency programs, including a 38 percent cut in the highly-successful program that promotes energy efficiency in key industries.

